

From: Tim Weaver - InfoTech
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/24/02 8:41pm
Subject: Forced application bundling

Dear Madams and Sirs:

With 30 years of computer experience as buyer, user and IT consultant, my observations are both positive and negative regarding Microsoft's market power and subsequent abuses.

Point #1 - I have prospered because Microsoft products required added support which I provide but I am also offended that functions that should work do not; thus requiring the customer to hire me to do extraneous tasks - well known security flaws comprise just one example.

Point #2 - More egregious abuse however shows not only at Microsoft but also at related "reseller" companies such as Dell.

When a friend configured a personal computer system he asked me why it was so expensive when the hardware alone was advertised as "below \$700".

As it turns out Microsoft Office Suite was included as a default and my friend was unable to "deselect" this option. This alone added \$300+ dollars to the overall cost.

The issue is not only that this was a "forced" added-on but also that no other office suite is available.

Point #3 - Finally as a shareholder of other public companies (not of Microsoft) I am aghast that Microsoft holds over \$36 billion in cash and refuses to pay a dividend in spite of their obligation to their shareholders.

Thank you consideration of my comments.

Timothy M Weaver
415-550-0525